Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/579,891	NAGAHISA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shawn S An	2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *11/15/04*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1,2,5,7-10,13,15 and 16*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *26 May 2000* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

 * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

 Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

IN THE CLAIMS:

A) Amend the claims 1 and 9 as follows;

1. (Currently Amended) An image collection apparatus comprising:

a control unit that controls the operation of a plurality of units comprising the image collection apparatus, the plurality of units including;

an image acquisition unit which acquires an image;

an event detection unit which detects an event based on the image;

an operation unit by which inputted instructions are implemented;

an event data creation unit which creates event data indicative of at least a generation time and contents of the event detected by said event detection unit;

a macro event definition unit which defines a macro event, including at least a first event and a last event related to each other, and having a time width, equivalent to an entire range of events between a beginning of the at least first event to an end of the last event, by using the generation time and contents of the event;

wherein the macro event definition unit carries out definition including repetition of a predetermined event in a series of events constituting the macro event;

a macro event data creation unit for creating macro event data by structuring the at least first event and the last event from a plurality of event data generated by said event data creation unit based on definition contents of the macro event defined by said

macro event definition unit allowing dependent storage and retrieval of the at least first event and the last event;

an image recording unit which records an image of a macro event corresponding to the macro event data;

a retrieval unit which retrieves a desirable macro event based on the macro event data; and

a display unit which acquires at least an image of the macro event retrieved by the retrieval unit from the image recording unit and displays the image;

an image summary unit which selects an image in a predetermined portion of the image of the macro event and summarizes the image of the macro event;

wherein said image recording unit records the image of the macro event summarized by said image summary unit;

a measurement unit which measures data related to the image; and

a measured data storage unit which stores the measured data acquired by said measurement unit in relation to the macro event,

wherein said display unit displays the image of the macro event and displays the measured data related to the macro event.

9. (Currently Amended) An image collection method comprising:

controlling a plurality of operations, including:

acquires an image and detecting an event;

implementing inputted instructions;

creating event data indicative of at least a generation time and contents of the event detected by said acquiring;

creating macro event data by structuring at least a first event and a last event related to each other from a plurality of event data generated by said event data generation unit and having a time width, equivalent to an entire range of events between a beginning of the at least first event to an end of the last event, allowing dependent storage and retrieval of the at least first event and the last event;

wherein said creating includes creating macro event data based on the macro event definition contents defined including repetition of a predetermined event in a series of event constituting the macro event'

recording an image of a macro event corresponding to the macro event data;

retrieving a desirable macro event based on the macro event data;

acquiring and displaying at least the image of the macro event retrieved at the retrieving;

selecting an image in a predetermined portion of the image of the macro event and summarizing the image of the macro event, said image recording including recording the image of the macro event summarized at said image summarizing;

measureing data related to the image; and

storeing the measured data acquired at said measuring step in relation to the macro event;

said displaying including displaying the image of the macro event and displaying the measured data related to the macro event.

REMARKS:

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended as above, as authorized by Applicant's attorney, Chad J. Billings by telephone on Jan. 7, 2005.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to *Shawn S An* whose telephone number is 703-305-0099. The Examiner can normally be reached on Flex hours (10).

SSA

Primary Patent Examiner

1/7/05

Reasons for Allowance

1. As per Applicant's instructions as filed on 11/15/04, claims 1, 9-10, 13, and 15-16 have been amended and claims 3-4, 6, 11-12, 14, and 17-19 have been canceled.

2. Claims 1-2, 5, 7-10, 13, and 15-16 are allowed after entering the Examiner's Amendment as discussed above.

3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-2, 5, 7-10, 13, and 15-16 recite the novel features for an image collection apparatus/method comprising:

a control unit that controls the operation of a plurality of units comprising the image collection apparatus, the plurality of units including;

an image acquisition unit which acquires an image;

an event detection unit which detects an event based on the image;

an operation unit by which inputted instructions are implemented;

an event data creation unit which creates event data indicative of at least a generation time and contents of the event detected by said event detection unit;

a macro event definition unit which defines a macro event, including at least a first event and a last event related to each other, and having a time width, equivalent to an entire range of events between a beginning of the at least first event to an end of the last event, by using the generation time and contents of the event;

wherein the macro event definition unit carries out definition including repetition of a predetermined event in a series of events constituting the macro event;

a macro event data creation unit for creating macro event data by structuring the at least first event and the last event from a plurality of event data generated by said event data creation unit based on definition contents of the macro event defined by said macro event definition unit allowing dependent storage and retrieval of the at least first event and the last event;

an image recording unit which records an image of a macro event corresponding to the macro event data;

a retrieval unit which retrieves a desirable macro event based on the macro event data; and

a display unit which acquires at least an image of the macro event retrieved by the retrieval unit from the image recording unit and displays the image;

an image summary unit which selects an image in a predetermined portion of the image of the macro event and summarizes the image of the macro event;

wherein said image recording unit records the image of the macro event summarized by said image summary unit;

a measurement unit which measures data related to the image; and

a measured data storage unit which stores the measured data acquired by said measurement unit in relation to the macro event,

wherein said display unit displays the image of the macro event and displays the measured data related to the macro event.

The prior art of records fail to anticipate or make obvious the novel features.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to *Shawn S. An* whose telephone number is 703-305-0099. The Examiner can normally be reached on Flex hours (10).

5. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SSA
Primary Patent Examiner
1/7/05